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TO: Commissioner for PatentsFAX NO.: 703-872-9306FROM: Keith Taboada, Esq.DATE: March 18, 2004MATTER: Serial No. 09/776,329 Filed: February 2, 2001DOCKET NO.: AMAT/5192/ISM/CORE/MCVD/SAPPLICANT: Seutter, et al.

The following has been received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date of this facsimile:

Petition
 Disclosure Statement & PTO-1449
 Priority Document
 Drawings (____ sheets) informal
 Amendment
 Response to Office Action (14 pages)

Transmittal Letter (2 copies)
 Fee Transmittal (2 copies)
 Deposit Account Transaction
 Facsimile Transmission Certificate
 dated March 18, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to Mail Stop Non-Fee
 Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 18, 2004.
 Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.

Allyson M. DeVestey
 Name of person signing this certificate

Allyson M. DeVestey 3-18-04
 Signature and date

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/776,329
Page 1 of 14

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant: Seutter, et al.

Case: AMAT/5192/ISM/CORE/MCVD/S

Serial No.: 09/776,329

Filed: February 2, 2001

Examiner: Thomas, Toniae M.

Group Art Unit: 2822

Confirmation No.: 9575

Title: FORMATION OF A TANTALUM-NITRIDE LAYER

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 13, 2004

In response to the Office Action dated February 13, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 13, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

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